
California schools focus on academic growth for all students

In October 2000, California public schools received their 1999–2000 academic growth reports. These reports complete the first reporting cycle for the state’s new school accountability system authorized by the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999 (PSAA).

The central focus of the PSAA is growth. It is based on an Academic Performance Index (API). This index measures each school’s academic performance, sets growth targets for improvement, and determines if the targets are met. Schools that reach their target will be eligible for awards. Schools that do not meet their targets will be eligible for interventions or subject to sanctions.

Reporting the **A**cademic **P**erformance **I**ndex Growth and Awards

1999–2000



September 2000

Prepared by the
Policy and Evaluation Division
California Department of Education

What is the API?

The API is a numeric index or scale that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. The state set 800 as the interim API score that schools should strive to meet. Schools that fall short of 800 are required to meet annual growth targets until their goal is achieved. Schools that already meet or exceed the 800 API should continue working to improve the academic performance of all students.

What was used to calculate the API for 1999 and 2000?

Results of the Stanford 9 test, given each spring as part of the state's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program, were used to calculate a school's API for 1999 and 2000.

Additional information about a school's academic performance will be used for the API in future years. That achievement data may include results of other tests that are aligned to state standards, primary language tests, and attendance and graduation rates.

What does the 1999–2000 growth report include?

This report includes each school's 1999 and 2000 API scores, the 1999–2000 growth target and actual growth, how the school's growth compared with similar schools, whether the target was met, and the school's eligibility for awards. The report also includes the same type of information for subgroups of students at the school.

Do districts receive APIs and growth scores?

No. Only schools receive API and growth reports. The focus of the Accountability System is to improve student academic achievement at every school.

What happens to schools that meet their growth targets?

Schools that meet or exceed their growth targets may be eligible to receive monetary or other types of awards through three programs: the Governor's Performance Award, the Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Award, or the School Site Employee Performance Bonus. To be eligible for these awards, schools also must show that they met student participation rate requirements for the Stanford 9. A total of \$677 million has been allocated for these programs. Based on the 1999–2000 API reporting cycle.

API Reporting Cycle 1999–2000

January 2000	Base Year Report – includes 1999 API, based on 1999 Stanford 9 test results for schools
October 2000	Growth Report – reports API growth, based on difference between 1999 and 2000 Stanford 9 results for schools

What happens to schools that do not meet their growth targets?

Schools that do not meet their growth targets may be eligible to receive special assistance through the Immediate Interventions/Underperforming Schools Program (II/USP). If schools continue not to meet their growth targets, they may be subject to local or state sanctions.

Does the API affect my student's progress in school?

No. The API is part of a state accountability system for schools, not individual students. As students increase their achievement on the Stanford 9 test, however, the school's score on the API will improve.

Where can parents go for more information?

Parents should direct their questions about the PSAA or the 1999–2000 API growth reports to the principal or other school administrators. Further information can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa> on the Internet.



Will the three awards be in place next year?

Currently there is ongoing funding for the GPA and Certificated Staff Incentive awards. The School Site Employee Bonus award is a one-time bonus based on the 2000 API only.

What happens if a school has a very mobile student population?

Students must have been enrolled in the district prior to the year of testing for their Stanford 9 scores to be included in the school's API. This includes English Learners.

Will schools be eligible for the current awards if they are part of the Alternative Accountability System?

No. Award funds for these schools need to be appropriated through additional legislation.

Are the scores of special education students calculated into the API?

The scores are included unless the student received a non-standard accommodation for the Stanford 9, and/or was not enrolled in the district prior to the year of testing.

What is the API and how is it calculated?

The API measures performance and progress of a school. Results of the Stanford 9 test, given each spring as part of the state's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program, were used to calculate a school's 1999 baseline and growth for 2000.

Additional indicators about a school's academic performance will be used for the API in future years. These achievement data may include results of other tests that are aligned to state standards and attendance and graduation rates.

Information about the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA), the API, and the API-based awards programs can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/awards>

Information Guide...

Governor's Performance Award Program

School Site Employee Performance Bonus



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What awards are available for schools through the state's new school accountability system?

The Governor has designated three awards to be given to schools and/or to school site employees as part of the state's new accountability system:

- Governor's Performance Award (GPA) Program (Senate Bill 1X)
- School Site Employee Performance Bonus (Senate Bill 1667)
- Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Award (Assembly Bill 1114)*

What are the criteria to qualify for these awards?

For a school to qualify for the GPA and the School Site Employee Bonus:

- A school's Academic Performance Index (API) must show at least 5 percent growth
- The API for all numerically significant subgroups of students at the school must make at least 80 percent of the school's growth target
- Elementary and middle schools must have at least a 95 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9 test
- High schools must have at least a 90 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9 test
- Schools that met the state's performance target of 800 on the 1999 API must make at least a one point gain in 2000

No application process is necessary for eligible schools to receive the funds.

How much money could schools receive?

Schools meeting the criteria for the GPA could receive up to \$150 per student. Kindergarten through twelfth grade students will be counted.

Schools receiving the GPA also will receive the School Site Employee Bonus award. The School Site Employee Bonus funds will be split equally between school site expenditures and school site staff.

When will schools know if they have won an award?

In October 2000, California Department of Education will post on its website those schools meeting the criteria for the GPA and School Site Employee Bonus awards.

When will the awards be distributed?

It is anticipated that the award money will be distributed after January 2001.

Who will receive the money?

Under the GPA, schools will receive the funds for schoolwide use.

Under the School Site Employee Bonus, all staff at the school site will receive 50 percent of the money. The other 50 percent of the money will be awarded to the school for schoolwide use.

Will schools be excluded from receiving awards if they have a large number of parent waivers?

Schools with a high percentage of parent waivers on Stanford 9 testing will not be excluded from receiving an award; however, the amount of funding for the GPA will be reduced in proportion to the number of parent waivers and the number of other students not tested in grades 2 through 11.

How will schools decide on the use of the funds?

The use of GPA and School Site Employee Bonus funds at the school will be determined by the existing site governance team/council. The use of the funds will be ratified by the local school board.

School Site Employee Bonus awards for individual site staff is to be used by each recipient.

Can a school win more than one award?

Yes. Qualifying schools will receive a minimum of two awards, the GPA and the School Site Employee Bonus. Some schools meeting the conditions of the Certified Staff Performance Incentive Award will also receive additional dollars for certificated staff.

* *Certificated Staff Incentive Award is explained in a companion brochure*

Will this award be available next year?

Yes. Funding for this award will be available next year. There is ongoing funding for this award.

Will schools be eligible for the current awards if they are part of the Alternative Accountability System?

No. Award funds for these schools need to be appropriated through additional legislation.

What happens if a school has a very mobile student population?

Students must have been enrolled in the district prior to the year of testing for their Stanford 9 scores to be included in the school's API for 1999 and 2000. This includes English learners.

Are the scores of special education students calculated into the API?

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Information Guide...

Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Act



Information about the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA), the API, and the API-based awards programs can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/awards>

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How do schools qualify for the Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Award (Assembly Bill 1114)?

Schools with a 1999 Academic Performance Index (API) in the lower half of the statewide rankings (deciles 1–5) are eligible for this award.

Criteria for receiving the award are:

- The 2000 API for growth must show at least two times the annual growth target, which is a minimum of 10 percent growth from the 1999 API
- The APIs of all numerically significant subgroups of students in the school must make at least 80 percent of the school's 10 percent growth target
- A school must show growth between the 1998 and 1999 Stanford 9 scores
- Elementary and middle schools must have at least a 95 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9
- High schools must have at least a 90 percent participation rate on the Stanford 9

Who is eligible to receive the money?

All school certificated staff (all site positions requiring certificated staff such as teachers and principals) will receive money for this award. Teachers with emergency credentials are included in the awards funding.

The governing board of the school district shall negotiate individual teacher and other certificated staff salary award amounts with the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit.

How will the awards money be allocated?

Schools that meet the criteria will be ranked from highest to lowest gains based on points over their API targets. Awards will be allocated successively until the \$100 million allocated for this awards program is gone. Distribution will be as follows:

- 1,000 certificated staff in schools with the largest growth will receive \$25,000 each.
- 3,750 certificated staff will receive \$10,000 each.
- 7,500 certificated staff will receive \$5,000 each.

How will districts know if any of their schools are eligible for this award?

In December, districts will receive a letter informing them of their eligibility and an application for eligible schools.

When will the award money be distributed?

The award money will be distributed after January 2001.

Do schools have to apply for this award?

State law requires that districts apply for the Assembly Bill 1114 awards on behalf of their eligible schools.

Will all schools that are eligible receive this award?

No. Once the money has been distributed to the 12,250 certificated staff in the identified schools, the award funding will be gone.

Are there other award programs for schools meeting their API targets?

Yes. The Governor has designated two other awards to be given to schools and to school site individuals, based on API growth—the Governor's Performance Award (GPA) Program (Senate Bill 1X) and the School Site Employee Performance Bonus (Senate Bill 1667).

Can a school win more than one award?

Yes. Schools meeting conditions for this award will automatically receive the GPA and the School Site Employee Bonus awards.
